

What is claimed is:

1           1. In a multicolor printing method, a plurality of  
removable ink drums replaceable with each other are fed with  
respective masters by fixed master feeding devices smaller  
in number than said plurality of ink drums via a replacement  
5 of said plurality of ink drums and are used for printing.

1           2. In a multicolor printing method, after a master has  
been wrapped around an ink drum by a master making device  
including a master feeding function and a master discharging  
function, said ink drum is mounted to a multicolor printing  
5 device capable of accommodating a plurality of removable ink  
drums, but void of a master making arrangement including a  
master feeding function and a master discharging function,  
and used for printing.

1           3. A multicolor printing system comprising:  
a master making device capable of feeding a new master  
and discharging a used master and allowing an ink drum to be  
removably mounted thereto;

5           a multicolor printer loaded with a plurality of  
removable ink drums, but void of a master making  
arrangement including a master feeding function and a master  
discharging function; and

          a plurality of ink drums shared by said master making  
10 device and said multicolor printer.

1           4. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said master making device and said multicolor printer are separable from each other.

1           5. A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said master making device comprises a printer accommodating a single replaceable drum.

1           6. A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said printer comprises a conventional printer accommodating a single replaceable drum.

1           7. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said ink drums each is capable of being mounted to any desired one of a plurality of drum mounting sections included in said multicolor printer.

1           8. A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said ink drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout said system.

1           9. A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein a downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums  
5 next to the downstream ink drum.

1           10. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said master making device comprises a printer accommodating a single replaceable drum.

1           11. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said  
printer comprises a conventional printer accommodating a  
single replaceable drum.

1           12. A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said ink  
drums each is capable of being mounted to any desired one of  
a plurality of drum mounting sections included in said  
multicolor printer.

1           13. A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said ink  
drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout  
said system.

1           14. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said ink  
drums each is capable of being mounted to any desired one of  
a plurality of drum mounting sections included in said  
multicolor printer.

1           15. A system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said ink  
drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout  
said system.

1           16. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said ink  
drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout  
said system.

1           17. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein a  
downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of  
paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting  
mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums  
5       next to the downstream ink drum.

1           18. A multicolor printing system comprising:  
a plurality of removable ink drums replaceable with  
each other and capable of implementing simultaneous  
multicolor printing;

5           a fixed master feeding device shared by said plurality of  
ink drums; and

at least one master discharging device.

1           19. A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said ink  
drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout  
said system.

1           20. A system as claimed in claim 19, wherein a  
downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of  
paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting  
mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums  
5 next to the downstream ink drum.

1           21. A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein a  
downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of  
paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting  
mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums  
5 next to the downstream ink drum.

1           22. A multicolor printing system comprising:  
a fixed master feeding device;  
a main printer including at least one removable ink  
drum; and

5           an auxiliary printer connected to said main printer by an intermediate conveying unit and including at least one removable ink drum, but not including a master feeding device;

          said at least one ink drum of said main printer and said  
10       at least one ink drum of said auxiliary printer being replaceable with each other.

1           23. A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein a plurality of said auxiliary printers are serially connected together.

1           24. A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein said ink drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout said system.

1           25. A system as claimed in claim 24, wherein a downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums  
5       next to the downstream ink drum.

1           26. A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said ink drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout said system.

1           27. A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein a downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums  
5       next to the downstream ink drum.